



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
White Sands National Monument
P.O. Box 1086
Holloman AFB, NM 88330



Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Proposed Entrance Fee Increase

What are the Proposed Fees?

Presently, the entrance fee at White Sands National Monument is \$3 for persons age 17 and older and \$20 for the White Sands Annual Pass; the proposed fees would take effect January 1, 2008 and are:

\$7 per person 16 and older
\$15 per vehicle
\$30 White Sands Annual Pass

Does the proposed fee structure mean I'll have to pay two fees?

No. Under the proposed fee structure, a vehicle occupied by one person, motorcycles, bicyclists and hikers would pay the per person fee. Vehicles with two or more persons would pay the per vehicle fee.

How is the entrance fee used?

By law, eighty percent (80%) of fees collected at White Sands are spent directly on facilities that enhance the visitor experience. **None can be spent on operations.** The remaining twenty percent (20%) is deposited into a fund for use by parks that do not charge an entrance fee. **No funds can be used for operations.**

Why a fee increase?

Managing our public lands is a major financial investment. While most of that investment comes from the general tax base, those who use these areas for recreation derive a greater benefit from - and place a greater burden on - resources than the public at large. These fees redistribute that burden so that users pay an increased share of the costs. We encourage you to participate in recreational activities; such experience will enhance your visit and create memories. But we also ask you to remember your role in keeping the outdoor recreational experience alive for others.

What are some of the projects White Sands has funded with the fees?

In recent years, we have installed new restrooms in the dune area, replaced picnic shelters, constructed a handicap- accessible boardwalk, repaired the visitor center courtyard, purchased a new audio- visual trailer for evening programs, and improved fire protection and water delivery with a new water line and hydrants.

Where are the open house sessions being held?

The sessions were held on October 18 from 5- 7 p.m. at Club Fusion Teen Center in Las Cruces, October 19 from 5- 7 p.m. at Chamizal National Memorial in El Paso, and October 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Alamogordo Public Library. No future open house sessions are planned.

How can I comment on the proposal?

You can write to: Superintendent, White Sands National Monument, P.O. Box 1086 Holloman AFB, NM 88330- 1086, ATTN: New Fee Proposal. You can also send comments via electronic mail to: whsa_superintendent@nps.gov. **The deadline for comments is November 9, 2006.**

I did not make it to the open house, is there another way I can view the materials?

Yes. You can go to the White Sands National Monument website, at www.nps.gov/whsa, and click on “NEWS”, to view the materials shown at the open house. For those without internet access, you can contact the park by phone to have the materials mailed to you.